

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

Claim 1 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus capable of communicating with a plurality of peripheral devices, said apparatus comprising:

a storage device, for storing predetermined objects for the peripheral devices based on directory information;

designation means for designating a specific object indicating a peripheral device having a predetermined function;

detection means, responsive to a designation by said designation means, for detecting [[a]] the specific object designated by said designation means in the directory information read from said storage device;

display means, for displaying, in accordance with a tree list, the specific object detected by said detection means; and

control means, for, based on the number of steps along a directory path leading from a local object corresponding to one of the peripheral devices locally connected to said information processing apparatus to the specific object corresponding to another specific peripheral device not locally connected to said information processing apparatus, permitting said display means to display, in accordance with the tree list, the specific object detected by said detection means,

wherein the peripheral device for the local object and the peripheral device for the specific object designated by said designation means have the same function.

Claim 2 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means omits an intermediate directory path leading to the specific object.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, before the specific object detected by said detection means is displayed on said display means in accordance with the tree list, said control means omits a portion of a directory path in which portion the specific object is not present.

Claim 4 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means performs sorting for an object display, so that the specific object is displayed at a higher location on a list.

Claim 5 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the specific object detected by said detection means is to be displayed on said display means in accordance with the tree list, and when the specific object cannot be referred to directly due to access right limitations, said control means displays a higher object for which there are no access right problems.

Claim 6 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the specific object is an object for a printer device.

Claim 7 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the specific object is an object for a compound device including a printer function.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An information processing method, for an information processing apparatus[[,]] capable of communicating with a plurality of peripheral devices[[,]] and including a storage device for storing predetermined objects for the peripheral ~~devices~~ devices based on directory information, said method comprising:

a designation step of designating a specific object indicating a peripheral device having a predetermined function;

a detection step of, responsive to a designation in said designation step, detecting [[a]] the specific object designated in said designation step in the directory information read from the storage device;

a display step of, in accordance with a tree list, displaying on display means the specific object detected in said detection step; and

a control step of, based on the number of steps along a directory path leading from a local object corresponding to one of the peripheral devices locally connected to the information processing apparatus to the specific object corresponding to another specific peripheral device not locally connected to the information processing apparatus, permitting the display means to display, in accordance with the tree list, the specific object detected in said detection step,

wherein the peripheral device for the local object and the peripheral device for the specific object designated in said designation step have the same function.

Claim 9 (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 8, wherein an intermediate directory path leading to the specific object is omitted in said control step.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 8, wherein, before the specific object detected in said detection step is displayed on the display means in accordance with the tree list, in said control step, a portion of a directory path in which portion the specific object is not present is omitted.

Claim 11 (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 8, wherein sorting for an object display is performed in said control step, so that the specific object is displayed at a higher location on a list.

Claim 12 (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 8, wherein, when the specific object detected in said detection step is to be displayed on the display means in accordance with the tree list, and when the specific object cannot be referred to directly due to access right limitations, in said control step a higher object for which there are no access right problems is displayed.

Claim 13 (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 8, wherein the specific object is an object for a printer device.

Claim 14 (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 8, wherein the specific object is an object for a compound device including a printer function.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A control program, which is executed by an information processing apparatus[[,]] capable of communicating with a plurality of peripheral devices[[,]] and including a storage device for storing predetermined objects for the peripheral devices based on directory information, said program comprising:

code for a designation step of designating a specific object indicating a peripheral device having a predetermined function;

code for a detection step of, responsive to a designation in the designation step, detecting [[a]] the specific object designated in the designation step in the directory information read from the storage device;

code for a display step of, in accordance with a tree list, displaying on display means the specific object detected ~~by said code for a~~ in the detection step; and

code for a control step of, based on the number of steps along a directory path leading from a local object to the specific object, permitting the display means to display, in accordance with the tree list, the specific object detected ~~by said code for a~~ in the detection step,

wherein the peripheral device for the local object and the peripheral device for the specific object designated in the designation step have the same function.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A control program according to claim 15, which permits the information processing apparatus to execute said code for a control step; ~~so~~ such that an intermediate directory path leading to the specific object is omitted.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A control program according to claim 15, which permits the information processing apparatus to execute said code for a control step; ~~so~~ such that, before the specific object detected ~~by said code for a~~ in the detection step is displayed on the display means in accordance with the tree list, a portion of a directory path in which portion the specific object is not present is omitted.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A control program according to claim 15, which permits the information processing apparatus to execute said code for a control step; ~~so~~ such that sorting for an object display is performed, and the specific object is displayed at a higher location on a list.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A control program according to claim 15, which permits the information processing apparatus to execute said code for a control step; ~~so~~ such that, when the specific object detected ~~by said code for a~~ in the detection step is to be displayed on the display means in accordance with the tree list, and when the specific object cannot be referred to directly due to access right limitations, a higher object for which there are no access right problems is displayed.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A control program according to claim 15, wherein the specific object is an object for a printer device.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A control program according to claim 15, wherein the specific object is an object for a compound device including a printer function.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium for storing the control program according to claim 15.

Claim 23 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus capable of communicating with a plurality of peripheral devices, said apparatus comprising:

a storage device, for storing predetermined objects for the peripheral devices based on directory information;

designation means for designating a specific object indicating a peripheral device having a predetermined function;

detection means, responsive to a designation by said designation means, for detecting [[a]] the specific object designated by said designation means in the directory information read from said storage device;

display means, for displaying, in accordance with a tree list, the specific object detected by said detection means; and

control means, for, when the object detected by said detection means is to be displayed on said display means in accordance with a tree list, omitting an intermediate directory path to the specific object,

wherein said control means permits, based on the number of steps along a directory path leading from a local object corresponding to one of the peripheral devices locally connected to said information processing apparatus to the specific object corresponding to another specific peripheral device not locally connected to said information processing apparatus, said display means to display, in accordance with the tree list, the specific object detected by said detection means, and

wherein the peripheral device for the local object and the peripheral device for the specific object designated by said designation means have the same function.

Claim 24 (currently amended): An information processing method, for an information processing apparatus[[,]] capable of communication with a plurality of peripheral devices[[,]] and including a storage device, for storing predetermined objects for the peripheral devices based on directory information, said method comprising:

a designation step of designating a specific object indicating a peripheral device having a predetermined function;

a detection step, responsive to a designation in said designation step,
of detecting [[a]] the specific object designated in said designation step in the directory information read from the storage device;

a display step of, in accordance with a tree list, displaying on display means the specific object detected in said detection step; and

a control step of, when the object detected in said detection step is to be displayed on the display means in accordance with a tree list, omitting an intermediate directory path to the specific object,

wherein said control step includes permitting, based on the number of steps along a directory path leading from a local object corresponding to one of the peripheral devices locally connected to the information processing apparatus to the specific object corresponding to another specific peripheral device not locally connected to the information processing apparatus, said display step ~~displays~~ includes displaying, in accordance with the tree list, the specific object detected in said detection step, and

wherein the peripheral device for the local object and the peripheral device for the specific object designated in said designation step have the same function.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A control program, which is executed by an information processing apparatus[[,]] capable of communicating with a plurality of peripheral devices[[,]] and including a storage device, for storing predetermined objects for the peripheral devices based on directory information, said program comprising:

code for a designation step of designating a specific object indicating a peripheral device having a predetermined function;

code for a detection step of responsive to a designation in the designation step, detecting [[a]] the specific object designated in the designation step in the directory information read from the storage device;

code for a display step of, in accordance with a tree list, displaying on display means the specific object detected ~~said code for a~~ in the detection step; and

code for a control step of, when the object detected ~~by code for~~
~~a said~~ in the detection step is to be displayed on the display means in accordance with a tree
list, omitting an intermediate directory path to the specific object,

wherein execution of said code for a control step ~~includes permitting~~
permits, based on the number of steps along a directory path leading from a local object
corresponding to one of the peripheral devices locally connected to the information
processing apparatus to the specific object corresponding to another specific peripheral
device not locally connected to the information processing apparatus, ~~said code for a~~
display ~~step~~ by the display ~~[[s]]~~ means, in accordance with the tree list, of the specific
object detected ~~by said code for a~~ in the detection step, and

wherein the peripheral device for the local object and the peripheral
device for the specific object designated in the designation step have the same function.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium ~~for~~
storing the control program according to claim 25.

Claims 27-34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (new): An information processing apparatus having a search
function, comprising:

registration means for registering a peripheral device in
correspondence to a predetermined peripheral device folder;

display means for displaying a search designation object for designating a search designation provided in correspondence to the peripheral device folder;

designation means for designating the search designation object; and

search means for, responsive to a designation by said designation means, searching for a peripheral device having a function corresponding to the search designation object designated by said designation means,

wherein said display means displays a search result obtained by said search means.

Claim 36 (new): An information processing apparatus to claim 35, wherein said display means displays the search designation object in the peripheral device folder.